National Institute for Organic Agriculture

1065. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Institute for Organic Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government received any request from the Kerala Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) During the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Instiute of Organic Farming, whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. The components include the following:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming.
- Capacity building for organic farming.
- Support to commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetables waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture etc.
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(c) to (e) The State Government of Kerala is one of the States, who have requested for setting up of National Institute of Organic Farming (NIOF) in their States. Their request alongwith similar requests received from other States will be considered at appropriate time.

Restructuring co-operative credit structure

1066. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a Rs. 8000 crore financial package for restructuring the co-operative credit structure in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?